Failure of computers during rail reservations

*126. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no alternative arrangement exists in the Railways to tell the position of reservations, in case of computer failure;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any arrangements to avoid inconvenience to passengers in such situations;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the alternate arrangement would be made by Government to tell the position of reservations, in case of computer failure?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) It is a fact that position of reservation on real-time basis is not available in case of failure of Central Computers. However, in the event of computer failure on the day of departure of train, the position of reservation, updated upto the close of the previous day, can be obtained from skeleton charts displayed at the platform at the time of departure of a train.

For minimizing the computer failures, more and more reliable back-up and upgrading of existing computer systems is an ongoing process. Indian Railways have recently, inducted latest state-of-the-art Alpha computers, in order to improve reliability. These computers help quick restart of reservation services by way of achieving speedy system reboot etc. Failure rate of these servers is also very low.

Recovery of licence fee/royalty by IIP, Dehradun

*127. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun was expected to develop around 45 technologies during 1994—2000;

(b) if so, whether during this period IIP could transfer only 23 technologies, including 14 developed prior to 1994 and failed to recover royalty/licence fee worth Rs.2.94 crore in' 16 cases;

(c) if so, whether such failure was due to non-inclusion of penalty clauses in the transfer agreements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No Sir, the number of projects undertaken for development of technologies were 24 and the remaining were studies for feasibility, evaluation, certification etc. The amount of Rs.2.94 crore from licensing of 16 technologies is envisaged to accrue on implementation of the projects. In a majority of the cases, the licensees are facing difficulties in project implementation due to adverse business and financial conditions and in other cases the amount is to accrue on successful realisation of implementation milestones.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Inflow of hazardous steel scrap

*128. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inflow of huge quantity of hazardous steel scrap from the debris of the World Trade Centre, New York, into India recently, in violation of the accepted environment norms;

(b) whether any communication on above subject has been received from the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, during January-February 2002; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?